

National Weather Service



MEDIA ADVISORY

2003-14

September 15, 2003

Public Product Enhancements

Changes Effective October 1, 2003

On October 1, 2003, the National Weather Service (NWS) will implement a new policy concerning public forecast product specification. There will be some changes to public forecast products issued by the NWS office in Des Moines due to this policy. Here are the changes:

Significant Zone Forecast Changes - Product coding information will remain the same.

1. New name: ZONE FORECASTS FOR CENTRAL IOWA
2. Day four through day seven 24 hour forecasts will be broken into 12-hour segments resulting in a seamless 13 or 14 forecast period depending on the issuance time.
3. New routine issuance time: 4:00 A.M. instead of 4:15 A.M. 4:00 P.M. Issuance remains the same.
4. Wind forecast will be extended to 60 hours.

The following link provides an example of the modified zone forecast product.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notifications/zone_example0715.htm

Area Forecast Matrix - FOUS53 KDMX AFMDMX

The Area Forecast Matrix (AFM) displays various forecasted weather parameters for forecast areas specified in the Zone Forecasts for Central Iowa. The tabular product displays forecast weather parameters at 3, 6 and 12 hour intervals through 7 days. The AFM allows for rapid visual scanning of a large number of forecast parameters. The forecast data is a format suitable for automated computer retrieval.

The AFM will replace the Digital Zone Forecasts (RDFDMX).

Point Forecast Matrix - FOUS53 KDMX PFMDMX

The Point Forecast Matrix (PFM) is like the AFM except it is for specific points. The points used are the same points used in the Coded Cities Forecast.

Air Quality Advisories -

The NWS in Des Moines will issue Air Quality Advisories under the Non-Precipitation Advisory product (DSMNPWDSM) whenever the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues one. The NWS will disseminate Air Quality Advisories issued by DNR.

Remaining Public Forecast Products -

The narrative State Forecast Product, the Tabular State Forecast and the Coded Cities Forecast will remain the same.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Johnson at the National Weather Service in Des Moines at 515-270-4501, ext 726, or jeff.johnson@noaa.gov.